

Subject: Mississippi Messages — April 2021
From: Friends of the Mississippi River <communications@fmr.org>
To: sue rich <communications@fmr.org>
Date Sent: Wednesday, October 25, 2023 6:14:40 PM GMT-05:00
Date Received: Wednesday, October 25, 2023 6:14:42 PM GMT-05:00



**MISSISSIPPI
MESSAGES**

[Make sure FMR emails avoid your spam filter!](#) Or [manage your email preferences.](#)

As we send this email, we're mourning the loss of Daunte Wright, another Black man whose life was taken by police. We support the community's calls for justice and for change. If you'd like to take action, we urge you to call on your state legislators to [support the police accountability reforms](#) advocated by the Minnesota Coalition for Justice For George Floyd & All Stolen Lives.

FMR Updates



Celebrate Earth Month with FMR

From plastic tracking to independent cleanups, spring volunteer events to the Minnesota Earth Day Green Gathering, we've got ways for everyone to get involved this spring.

[Join us >>](#)



New river access in Cottage Grove?

The former Mississippi Dunes golf course in Cottage Grove has amazing potential to be a new park, but its owners want to develop it into a gated community. You can help us protect habitat and public river access at this special site.

[Watch our video, sign up for our info session, and weigh in >>](#)



Welcome, Monica!

FMR is thrilled to welcome Monica Bierma, our new administrative assistant and bookkeeper. Monica comes to FMR with 21 years of professional administrative assistant and office management experience. She spends her time outside of work volunteering, hiking, biking, kayaking and camping.

[Meet Monica >>](#)



Legislative session enters its last month

[Current Clean Water Fund spending proposals](#) leave the fate of our legislative priorities — like clean-water crop funding and lead service line replacement — uncertain. And the Senate has proposed [troubling cuts to environmental budgets](#), despite a state surplus. We'll be calling on our [River Guardians](#) to take action soon!



Climate change, climate justice and FMR's Water program

Climate change has worsened river flooding and drinking water pollution, challenges that physically and financially burden communities of color the most. Here's how FMR's Water program connects to our climate challenges.

[Learn more >>](#)



Volunteer spotlight: Randy's dedication at Ole Olson Park

For Randy Miranda, volunteering every week to tend FMR's prairie restoration at Ole Olson Park in North Minneapolis near his home was a meditative way to give back and get through the pandemic.

[Meet Randy >>](#)

Minnesota landfills are leaching 'forever chemicals'

As reported by Kirsti Marohn of MPR, investigators with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency have found alarming evidence of PFAS, so-called "forever chemicals," leaching from dozens of closed landfills around the state. In 2018, 3M settled a lawsuit brought by the State of Minnesota, agreeing to pay \$850 million to remediate PFAS contamination of drinking water supplies for hundreds of thousands of people in the eastern metro. This recent finding shows PFAS are more of a widespread issue than previously thought.

[Read more from FMR >>](#)

'Why the Corps of Engineers must remain at St. Anthony Falls'

Dr. John Anfinson is an FMR board member, a Mississippi River historian and the former superintendent of the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area. He recently wrote an article for the Northeast newspaper that outlines what's at stake in the ownership —and upkeep — of the Upper St. Anthony Falls lock: "St. Anthony Falls lies one tick of the geologic clock from ending a 12,000-year journey up the Mississippi River from St. Paul. [...] This disaster would threaten the Twin Cities water supply, downstream navigation, upstream infrastructure, and billions in public and private riverfront investments."

[Read more from FMR >>](#)

'Dakota County park plans to preserve Native American history'

FMR and FMR River Guardians [weighed in on Dakota County's plan for the future of Spring Lake Park Reserve](#) during their recent comment period. The county also met with Minnesota's four Dakota tribes as they drafted that plan. From the Star Tribune article on that process: "We knew from our very first visit to Spring Lake Park that it was a very special place and that there were a lot of sites there that were previously undocumented," said Samantha Odegard, a tribal historic preservation officer for the Upper Sioux Community. "They have a history that goes back to [our] creation."

[Read more from the Star Tribune >>](#)

Pioneer Press highlights St. Paul riverfront projects

From northern Minnesota to New Orleans, no city has more miles of Mississippi riverfront than St. Paul. Now the city is working to bring its Great River Passage plan to life by developing new parks and recreational opportunities along the river.

A recent Pioneer Press article showcases the possible River Learning Center at Crosby Farm Regional Park, the downtown river balcony, and better access to the Pigs Eye Lake area.

[Read more from FMR >>](#)

Upcoming Events



Want to get your hands dirty? [We still need volunteers](#) at eight stewardship events this spring.

[If you pick up trash on your own any time this April, be sure to let us know](#) so we can celebrate your impact and credit you with volunteer hours toward [SuperVolunteer status \(and this year's t-shirt!\)](#).

We hope you'll consider giving to FMR during [SpringForwardMN, May 1-11](#).

[See our full events calendar >>](#)

Conservation Corner

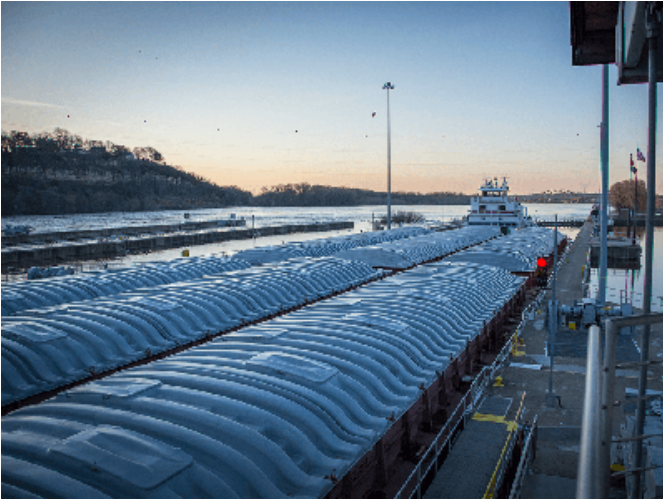


Cedar and spruce shore up the Vermillion River's eroding banks

At Vermillion River Linear Park in Hastings, the cedars we removed from our prairie restoration became the armor of a streambank stabilization project. This revetment not only stops erosion, but will also rebuild the riverbank, creating habitat for trout and other aquatic wildlife.

[See our before and after photos and learn more about this method >>](#)

Write to the River



Call for spring submissions

As the Mississippi River awakens, birds return, trees bud, new life begins, tows and barges once again make their way through our waters.

What says spring is here to you? We invite you to write to the river and be a part of our spring edition.

[Send us your spring poems and prose by May 1 >>](#)

Supporting FMR



Save the date — An Evening Celebrating the Mississippi River: Our Healing River

Mark your calendar for our annual fall event on September 30. Festivities will feature a curated, diverse selection of healing river stories told by those who lived them as well as updates on our work and opportunities to support our critical mission. Guests will have the option to join us at Nicollet Island Pavilion on the river in downtown Minneapolis or to participate virtually.

[Sign up to be the first to get event updates >>](#)

Need to reduce your inbox for a while? We understand. [You can opt out of FMR emails for 60 days.](#)

unsubscribe

donate

our work

Friends of the Mississippi River

106 West Water Street Suite 600 | St. Paul, Minnesota 55107 | (651) 222-2193 | communications@fmr.org

Trouble viewing? [Click here to read this email in your web browser.](#)

Follow Us



[Unsubscribe](#) or [Manage Your Preferences](#)